

## **Portion of Annabessacook Lake in Monmouth, Maine closed to bait dealers except for use of minnow traps in 2016**

The invasive aquatic plant variable leaf water milfoil (VLM, *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) was confirmed in Annabessacook Lake in September 2014. Several native species of milfoil also grow in Annabessacook.

Plant surveys and removal efforts by Maine Department of Environmental Protection staff show that, at this time, VLM is located in the relatively shallow water just east of the channel leading from the Waugan Road boat ramp. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is therefore closing a portion of Annabessacook Lake to bait dealers except for the use of minnow traps. This restriction is in place to reduce the likelihood of spreading this invasive aquatic plant within Annabessacook Lake and to other waters.

The closed area, depicted in the cross-hatched area on the attached image, extends from the Waugan Road boat access to the L-shaped line of yellow buoys identified with latitude and longitude on the image.

Additional buoys may be placed *within* the closed area in 2016 to assist with VLM surveying and removal. It is only the 7 buoys indicated on the image which define the easterly boundary of the closed area.

The large majority (97%) of the surface area of Annabessacook Lake remains without restrictions for bait dealers.

The restricted area may be expanded during 2016 depending on results of plant surveys.

Please contact Michael Brown, Fisheries Division Director (287-5263) with questions and for any changes to the restricted area.